

## ***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1        1.    [Currently amended] Method for processing a client  
2        session request received at a server in a system including a  
3        client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and~~  
4        ~~client~~ said server executing exit programs for negotiating a  
5        confirmation record on a session connection request in which  
6        direct communication between said client and said server is  
7        held on a connection for duration of a dialogue, comprising  
8        the steps of:

9            said client connecting to said server;

10          said client and said server negotiating environment  
11          parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
12          connection of said server with said client, said client  
13          and said server communicating over said connection  
14          using a same client/server communications protocol,  
15          said client including a graphical user interface  
16          selectively assigned a session name enabling client  
17          emulator communication at an application layer with  
18          said server;

19          while negotiating said environment parameters, said  
20          server inviting said client to negotiate terminal type  
21          and submit user environment variables;

22          said client responding by returning to said server said  
23          terminal type and submitting a request for a custom  
24          confirmation record, said request including at least

25       one user variable;

26       responsive to receiving ~~a user~~ said user variable and  
27       said request for requesting a custom confirmation  
28       record ~~received at said server~~ from said client, said  
29       server executing an exit program for calling and  
30       passing said user variable to a host application at  
31       said host external to said server, said host  
32       application processing said user variable and  
33       responsive thereto returning custom data to said  
34       server, said custom data selectively including a user  
35       variable received from said client that was selected  
36       and used; and

37       said server concluding negotiating said environment  
38       parameters with said client selectively including  
39       sending to said client a confirmation record ~~and custom~~  
40       record including said custom data received from said  
41       exit program ; ~~for enabling said client to engage in~~  
42       ~~subsequent programmable negotiations directly with said~~  
43       ~~server.~~

2.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, said negotiating,  
inviting, and sending steps executing within the application  
layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

3.     [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, further  
comprising the step responsive to a user variable requesting  
a confirmation record, sending to said client a confirmation  
record without said custom ~~record~~ data.

4.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, said confirmation

record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom data.

5. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of appending said custom ~~record~~ data to said confirmation record.

6. [Currently amended] The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and further comprising the step of sending to said client default data received at said exit program at said server from said host application in said custom ~~record~~ data.

7. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, further comprising the step of sending to said client defined data in said custom ~~record~~ data.

8. [Currently amended] The method of claim 7, said sending step including executing at said server a customer defined exit program on said list to access said host to generate said defined data.

9. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data received at said exit program at said server from said host application indicia identifying a device allocated by a host server.

10. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further

comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying a terminal or printer device allocated by ~~a host server~~ said host.

11. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying an associated device linked to a current session by a host.

12. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying a physical location for receiving output.

13. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying system security level and password encryption requirements.

14. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected request.

15. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

16. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

17. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 18. [Currently amended] A client/server system including a  
2 client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and~~  
3 ~~client~~ said server executing exit programs for negotiating a  
4 confirmation record on a session connection request in which  
5 direct communication between said client and said server is  
6 held for duration of a dialogue, comprising:

7 a custom confirmation record;

8 a user exit program running on said server;

9 said client operating in conjunction with said user  
10 exit program for requesting said custom confirmation  
11 record from said server, and responsive thereto for  
12 engaging in subsequent client/server negotiations; said  
13 client and said server communicating over a connection-  
14 oriented connection using a same client/server  
15 communications protocol, said client including a  
16 graphical user interface selectively assigned a session  
17 name enabling client emulator communication at an

18 application layer with said server;

19 a host application program module for receiving from  
20 said exit program a user variable provided to said  
21 server by a client request for a custom confirmation  
22 record and responsive thereto for returning to said  
23 server custom data selectively including said user  
24 variable;

25 said server further for sending to said client a  
26 confirmation record including said custom data.

19. [Original] The system of claim 18, said client being a Telnet client.

20. [Currently amended] The system of claim 18, further comprising:

said client being selectively operable for negotiating a send-custom-confirmation-record with a 'yes', 'no' or defined data value; and

said user exit ~~interpret~~ interpreting said data value and sending default or defined information received at said exit program at said server from said host application back to said client in said custom confirmation record.

21. [Currently amended] The system of claim 20, said custom confirmation record containing diagnostic information provided by said server along with custom information

~~provided~~ received at said exit program at said server from  
said host application by said user exit program.

22. [Currently amended] The system of claim 21, said custom  
information being provided by user exit programs executing  
in said server ~~and said client~~ to call application programs  
at said host.

1 23. [Currently amended] A method for operating a client to  
2 establish a network connection with a server in a system  
3 including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both~~  
4 ~~server and client~~ said server executing exit programs for  
5 negotiating a confirmation record on a session connection  
6 request in which direct communication between said client  
7 and said server is held for duration of a dialogue,  
8 comprising the steps of:

9 said client connecting to said server;

10 said client negotiating with said server environment  
11 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
12 connection with said server, said client and said  
13 server communicating over said connection using a same  
14 client/server communications protocol, said client  
15 including a graphical user interface selectively  
16 assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
17 communication at an application layer with said server;

18 said client receiving from said server an invitation to  
19 negotiate terminal type and submit user environment  
20 variables;

21        said client responding to said invitation by requesting  
22        ~~parameters including a request for~~ said server to  
23        provide a custom confirmation record, the request  
24        including at least one user variable; and  
  
25        ~~responsive to said request, receiving at said client~~  
26        said custom confirmation record ~~at said client and~~  
27        ~~engaging in subsequent programmable negotiations~~  
28        ~~directly with said server, said custom confirmation~~  
29        record received at said client including custom data  
30        provided by a host application program responsive to  
31        receiving said user variable from an exit program  
32        executing at said server.

24. [Currently amended] The method of claim 23, said custom confirmation record including return code, system name, device name and said custom data.

25. [Original]        The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

operating said server to request a custom information record from said client.

26. [Original]        The method of claim 25, said request comprising an invitation to said client from said server to respond with all environment variables.

27. [Original]        The method of claim 26, said client responding to said invitation by returning a custom information record as part of said environment variables.



28. [Original] The method of claim 27, said client responding to said invitation with a request that said server return to said client a custom confirmation record.

29. [Currently amended] The method of claim 28, further the steps of

operating an exit program at said server to call an application at said host to interpret the value in said custom information record to selectively return a custom confirmation record response.

30. [Currently amended] The method of ~~claim 28~~ claim 29, further comprising the steps of specifying in said custom confirmation record a list of custom fields to be returned by said server.

31. [Currently amended] The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of specifying in said custom confirmation record unstructured data for subsequent parsing and processing by said server, an application program at said host called by an exit program at said server, or an independent job.

1 32. [Currently amended] Method for operating a client to  
2 establish a network connection with a server in a system  
3 including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both~~  
4 ~~server and client~~ said server executing exit programs for  
5 negotiating a confirmation record on a session connection  
6 request in which direct communication between said client  
7 and said server is held for duration of a dialogue,  
8 comprising the steps of:

9           said client connecting to said server;

10           said client negotiating with said server environment  
11           parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
12           connection with said server, said client and said  
13           server communicating over said connection using a same  
14           client/server communications protocol, said client  
15           including a graphical user interface selectively  
16           assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
17           communication at an application layer with said server;

18           while negotiating said environment parameters,  
19           receiving from said server an invitation to negotiate  
20           terminal type and submit user environment variables;

21           said client responding by returning to said server said  
22           terminal type and submitting a request for a custom  
23           confirmation record, said request including at least  
24           one user variable;

25           responsive to sending to said server ~~a user~~ said user  
26           variable requesting a custom confirmation record,  
27           receiving at said client from said server a  
28           confirmation record and custom record data for enabling  
29           said client to engage in subsequent negotiations  
30           directly with said server, said custom record data  
31           generated by said host responsive to execution of a  
32           server exit program passing to a host application said  
33           user variable.

33. [Original]       The method of claim 32, said  
negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing within

the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

34. [Currently amended] The method of claim 32, further comprising the step, responsive to said invitation to submit user variables, of requesting a confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from said server a confirmation record without said custom record data.

35. [Original] The method of claim 32, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

36. [Original] The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of receiving said custom record data appended to said confirmation record.

37. [Original] The method of claim 32, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and further comprising the step of receiving from said server, default data in said custom record data.

38. [Currently amended] The method of claim 32, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, further comprising the step of receiving from said server, client defined data provided by a host application responsive a server exit program in said custom record data.

39. [Currently amended] The method of claim 38, further including the step of providing to said server a customer

defined exit program accessing a host application program  
for parsing said list to generate said defined data.

40. [Currently amended] The method of claim 35, further  
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
indicia identifying a device allocated by ~~a host server~~ said  
host application.

41. [Currently amended] The method of claim 35, further  
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated  
by ~~a host server~~ said host application.

42. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current  
session by a host.

43. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
indicia identifying a physical location for receiving  
output.

44. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
indicia identifying system security level and password  
encryption requirements.

45. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected  
request.

46. [Original] The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

47. [Original] The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

48. [Original] The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 49. [Currently amended] A client system for establishing a  
2 network connection with a server in a system including a  
3 client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and~~  
4 ~~client~~ said server executing exit programs for negotiating a  
5 confirmation record on a session connection request in which  
6 direct communication between said client and said server is  
7 held for duration of a dialogue, comprising:

8 a first logic element for negotiating environment  
9 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
10 connection with said server;

11 said parameters including a request for said server to  
12 provide a custom confirmation record to said client,  
13 said request including at least one user variable, said  
14 client including a graphical user interface selectively

15 assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
16 communication at an application layer with said server;  
17 and

18 a second logic element ~~responsive to said request,~~ for  
19 receiving said confirmation record from said server,  
20 said confirmation record including custom data provided  
21 to an exit program at said server by a host application  
22 external to said server for enabling said client to  
23 engage in subsequent programmable negotiations with  
24 said server, said client and said server communicating  
25 over said connection using a same client/server  
26 communications protocol.

50. [Original] The system of claim 49, said custom confirmation record including return code, system name, device name and custom data.

51. [Original] The system of claim 50, further comprising:

a third logic element for operating said server to request a custom information record from said client.

52. [Original] The system of claim 51, said request comprising an invitation to said client from said server to respond with all environment variables.

53. [Original] The system of claim 52, said client further comprising a fourth logic element for responding to said invitation by returning a custom information record as part of said environment variables.

54. [Original] The system of claim 53, said client further comprising a fifth logic element for responding to said invitation with a request that said server return to said client a custom confirmation record.

55. [Currently amended] The system of claim 54, said server further comprising an exit program for calling an application at said host for interpreting the value in said custom information record to selectively return a custom confirmation record response.

56. [Original] The system of claim 54, further comprising a logic element for specifying a list of custom fields to be returned by said server in said custom confirmation record.

57. [Currently amended] The system of claim 54, further comprising a logic element for specifying in said custom confirmation record unstructured data for subsequent parsing and processing by said server, an application at said host called by said exit program, or an independent job.

1 58. [Currently amended] System including a client, a  
2 server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and client~~ said  
3 server executing exit programs on a session connection  
4 request for processing a client session request in which  
5 direct communication between said client and said server is  
6 held for duration of a dialogue, comprising:

7 a logic element at said server for negotiating  
8 environment parameters for establishing a connection-  
9 oriented connection with said client and inviting said

10 client to negotiate terminal type and submit user  
11 variables to said server, said client including a  
12 graphical user interface selectively assigned a session  
13 name enabling client emulator communication at an  
14 application layer with said server; and  
  
15 a logic element at said client for returning to said  
16 server said terminal type and a request for a custom  
17 confirmation record, said request including at least  
18 one user variable; and  
  
19 an exit program at said server, responsive to receiving  
20 a user variable from said client requesting a custom  
21 confirmation record, for executing an exit program  
22 requesting of an application program at said host  
23 custom data for sending to said client in a  
24 ~~confirmation record and custom record data for enabling~~  
25 ~~said client to engage in subsequent programmable~~  
26 ~~negotiations directly with said server, said client and~~  
27 ~~said server communicating over said connection using a~~  
28 ~~same client/server communications protocol.~~

59. [Original] The system of claim 58, further comprising a TCP/IP protocol stack including within an application layer said exit program generating said custom record data.

60. [Original] The system of claim 58, said logic element further operable responsive to a user variable requesting a confirmation record for sending to said client a confirmation record without said custom record data.



61. [Original] The system of claim 58, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

62. [Original] The system of claim 58, said logic element further operable for appending said custom record data to said confirmation record.

1 63. [Currently amended] System for operating a client to  
2 establish a network connection with a server in a system  
3 including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both~~  
4 ~~server and client~~ said server executing exit programs for  
5 negotiating a confirmation record on a session connection  
6 request in which direct communication between said client  
7 and said server is held for duration of a dialogue,  
8 comprising:

9 a first logic element for connecting to said server and  
10 negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
11 connection-oriented connection with said server;

12 a second logic element ~~[[and]]~~ for receiving from said  
13 server an invitation to negotiate terminal type and  
14 submit user variables, said client and said server  
15 communicating over said connection using a same  
16 client/server communications protocol, said client  
17 including a graphical user interface selectively  
18 assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
19 communication at an application layer with said server;

20 a third logic element at said client for ~~a second logic~~

21 ~~element responsive to~~ sending to said server said  
22 terminal type and submitting a request for a custom  
23 confirmation record, said request including at least  
24 one a user user variable; and

25 ~~a fourth logic element requesting a custom confirmation~~  
26 ~~record for receiving from said server a confirmation~~  
27 ~~record and custom record data, for enabling said client~~  
28 ~~to engage in subsequent programmable negotiations~~  
29 ~~directly with said server~~ said custom record data  
30 generated by a host application selecting and using  
31 said user variable passed to said host by an exit  
32 program at said server.

64. [Original] The system of claim 63, further comprising a TCP/IP protocol stack including an application layer within which said logic elements execute.

65. [Original] The system of claim 63, further comprising the step responsive to said invitation to submit user variables, requesting a confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from said server a confirmation record without said custom record data.

66. [Original] The system of claim 63, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

67. [Original] The system of claim 63, said second logic element further responsive for receiving said custom record data appended to said confirmation record.

68. [Original] The system of claim 63, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and said second logic element further operable for receiving from said server default data in said custom record data.

69. [Original] The system of claim 63, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, said second logic element further operable for receiving from said server client defined data in said custom record data.

70. [Currently amended] The system of claim 69, further including a logic element for providing to said server a customer defined exit program for calling an application at said host for parsing said list to generate said defined data.

1 71. [Currently amended] A physical program storage device  
2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of  
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps  
4 for processing a client session request received at a server  
5 in a system including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host  
6 with ~~both server and client~~ said server executing exit  
7 programs for negotiating a confirmation record on a session  
8 connection request in which direct communication between  
9 said client and said server is held for duration of a  
10 dialogue, said method steps comprising:

11 said client connecting to said server;

12 said client and said server negotiating environment

13 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
14 connection with said client, said client and said  
15 server communicating over said connection using a same  
16 client/server communications protocol, said client  
17 including a graphical user interface selectively  
18 assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
19 communication at an application layer with said server;

20 while negotiating said environment parameters, said  
21 server inviting said client to negotiate terminal type  
22 and submit user environment variables to said server;

23 said client responding by returning to said by  
24 returning to said server said terminal tyhpe and  
25 submitting a request for a custom confirmation record,  
26 said request including at least one user variable;

27 responsive to receiving at said server ~~a user~~ said user  
28 variable requesting and said request for a custom  
29 confirmation record, said server executing an exit  
30 program for calling and passing said user variable to a  
31 host application at said host external to said server,  
32 said host application processing said user variable and  
33 responsive thereto returning custom data to said  
34 server, said custom data selectively including a user  
35 variable received from sending to said client a  
36 confirmation record and custom record data enabling  
37 said client to engage in subsequent programmable  
38 negotiations directly with said server that was  
39 selected and used; and

40 said server concluding negotiating said environment

41        paramters with said client selectively including send  
42        to said client a confirmation record including said  
43        custom data received from said exit program.

72. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 71, said negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing within the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

73. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 71, said method steps further comprising, responsive to a user variable requesting a confirmation record, sending to said client a confirmation record without said custom record data.

74. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 71, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

75. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 71, said method steps further comprising the step of appending said custom record data to said confirmation record.

76. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 71, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and said method steps further comprising the step of sending to said client default data in said custom record data.

77. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 71, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, and said method steps further comprising

the step of sending to said client defined data in said custom record data.

78. [Original] The program storage device of claim 77, said sending step including executing a customer defined exit program on said list to generate said defined data.

79. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

80. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

81. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current session by a host.

82. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a physical location for receiving output.

83. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying system security level and password encryption requirements.

84. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected request.

85. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

86. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

87. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 88. [Currently amended] A physical program storage device  
2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of  
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps  
4 for operating a client to establish a network connection  
5 with a server in a system including a client, a server, and  
6 a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and client~~ said server  
7 executing exit programs for negotiating a confirmation  
8 record on a session connection request in which direct  
9 communication between said client and said server is held  
10 for duration of a dialogue, said method steps comprising:

11        said client connecting to said server;

12        said client and said server negotiating environment  
13        parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
14        connection of said client with said server, said client  
15        including a graphical user interface selectively  
16        assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
17        communication at an application layer with said server;

18        receiving at said client from said server an invitation  
19        to negotiate terminal type and submit user environment  
20        variables, said client and said server communicating  
21        over said connection using a same client/server  
22        communications protocol;

23        said client responding by returning to said server said  
24        terminal type and submitting a request for a custom  
25        confirmation record, said request selectively including  
26        a user variable;

27        said server executing an exit program for calling and  
28        passing said user variable to a host application at  
29        said host external to said server, said host  
30        application processing said user variable and  
31        responsive thereto returning custom data to said  
32        server, said custom data selectively including a user  
33        variable received from said client that was selected  
34        and used by said host application; and

35        ~~responsive to sending to said server a user variable~~  
36        ~~requesting a custom confirmation record,~~ receiving at  
37        said client from said server a confirmation record ~~and~~



38       ~~custom record including said custom data enabling said~~  
39       ~~client to engage in subsequent programmable~~  
40       ~~negotiations directly with said server.~~

89. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 88,  
said negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing  
within the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

90. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 88,  
said method steps further comprising the step, responsive to  
said invitation to submit user variables, of requesting a  
confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from  
said server a confirmation record without said custom record  
data.

91. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 88,  
said confirmation record including a field defining a pass  
through data length, said pass through data including said  
confirmation record and said custom record data.

92. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 88,  
said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
said custom record data appended to said confirmation  
record.

93. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 88,  
said request being for a default custom confirmation record,  
and said method steps further comprising the step of  
receiving from said server default data in said custom  
record data.

94. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 88,

said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving from said server client defined data in said custom record data.

95. [Original]        The method of claim 94, further including the step of providing to said server a customer defined exit program for parsing said list to generate said defined data.

96. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

97. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

98. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current session by a host.

99. [Original]        The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a physical location for receiving output.

100. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 91,

said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying system security level and password encryption requirements.

101. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected request.

102. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

103. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

104. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 105. [Currently amended] A computer program product embodied  
2 on a tangible storage medium for operating a server in a  
3 network including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with  
4 ~~both server and client~~ said server executing exit programs  
5 for negotiating a confirmation record on a session  
6 connection request in which direct communication between  
7 said client and said server is held for duration of a

8        dialogue, comprising:

9            a ~~tangible~~ physical storage medium;

10          first program instructions for connecting said client  
11          to said server;

12          ~~first program~~ second program instructions for said  
13          client and said server negotiating to negotiate  
14          environment parameters for establishing a connection-  
15          oriented connection of said server with a client, said  
16          client including a graphical user interface selectively  
17          assigned a session name enabling client emulator  
18          communication at an application layer with said server;

19          ~~second program~~ third program instructions for ~~inviting~~  
20          said server to invite said client to negotiate terminal  
21          type and submit user environment variables to said  
22          server, said client and said server communicating over  
23          said connection using a same client/server  
24          communications protocol;

25          ~~third program~~ fourth program instructions responsive to  
26          said server receiving from said client ~~a user variable~~  
27          ~~requesting a request for~~ a custom confirmation record,  
28          said request including a user variable, ~~for sending to~~  
29          ~~said client a confirmation record and custom record~~  
30          ~~data enabling said client to engage in subsequent~~  
31          ~~programmable negotiations directly with said server for~~  
32          executing at said server an exit program for calling  
33          and passing said user variable to a host application  
34          external to said server, said host application

35        processing said user variable and, responsive thereto,  
36        returning custom data to said server and sending to  
37        said client from said server a confirmation record  
38        including said custom data received from said exit  
39        program; and wherein

40        said first, second, third, ~~and third~~ and fourth program  
41        instructions are recorded on said ~~tangible~~ physical  
42        storage medium.

1        106. [Currently amended] A computer program product  
2        embodied on a tangible storage medium for operating a client  
3        in a network including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host  
4        with ~~both server and client~~ said server executing exit  
5        programs for negotiating a confirmation record on a session  
6        connection request in which direct communication between  
7        said client and said server is held for duration of a  
8        dialogue, comprising:

9        a ~~tangible~~ physical program storage medium;

10       first program instructions for connecting said client  
11       to said server;

12       second program ~~first program~~ instructions for  
13       negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
14       connection-oriented connection of said client with a  
15       server, said client including a graphical user  
16       interface selectively assigned a session name enabling  
17       client emulator communication at an application layer  
18       with said server;

19 ~~third program~~ ~~second program~~ instructions for receiving  
20 from said server at said client an invitation to  
21 negotiate terminal type and submit user variables, said  
22 client and said server communicating over said  
23 connection using a same client/server communications  
24 protocol;

25 fourth program ~~third program~~ instructions for returning  
26 to said server said terminal type and submitting a  
27 request for a custom confirmation record, said request  
28 including at least one user variable;

29 fifth program instructions responsive to ~~sending to~~  
30 said request for executing an exit program at said  
31 server for calling and passing said user ~~a user~~  
32 variable to a host application at said host external to  
33 said server, said host application processing said user  
34 variable and responsive thereto returning custom data  
35 to said server, said custom data including a user  
36 variable received from said client that was selected  
37 and used;

38 sixth program instructions for concluding negotiation  
39 of said environment parameters and requesting a custom  
40 confirmation record, for receiving at said client from  
41 said server a for providing to said client said  
42 confirmation record and custom record data received at  
43 said said exit program from said host enabling said  
44 client to engage in subsequent programmable  
45 negotiations directly with said server; and wherein

46 said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth and

47       ~~third~~ program instructions are recorded on said  
48       ~~tangible~~ physical program storage medium.